Member.—Mr. Kumaran Asan belongs to the mixed system. All the others are Marumakkathayees.

Mr. C. Krishnan Vaidyan (Member, Nominated) said that he had brought up the question at the last session also, when the Dewan asked him whether the measure would be welcomed by the whole community. The community had already submitted a memorial from their common organisation, the S. N. D. P. Yogam, praying for a legislative enactment to regulate succession and marriage among them on the lines of the Nair Regulation. Among the members of the current session, one belonged to the mixed system and the others were Marumakkathayees, and they were present as the representatives of the respective sections of the community. The community felt aggrieved that, even after the passing of the Nair Regulation, the Government had not considered their request for a similar law favourably. He said that the whole community desired the law and that action should be taken by the Government without further delay.

[The Dewan then invited the opinions of the remaining Ezhava members and two of the visitors. All of them except Mr. K. Krishna Panikkan, Member, T. I. C., Mavelikara, supported the proposal. Mr. Krishna Panikkan said that he had no objection to the introduction of the law as the other members had strongly supported it, but that he felt bound to say that there would be some opposition also to the proposed measure.]

Dewan's reply.—I shall consider this question carefully. If the Government find that there is a very strong opinion in the community that a law should be introduced, they are prepared to undertake legislation. I wanted to say at once that the Government will certainly do so, but apparently there is some difference of opinion. There is one at least among you, even here, who is not wholly in favour of it. However, I shall consider it again and, probably before the session closes, I may be able to tell you the attitude of the Government in this matter.

35. Desirability of having a legislative enactment reducing the rate of interest on money debts.

Mr. P. Narayana Pillai (Member, Pattanapuram taluk) said that Regulation I of 1010 M. E. fixed the interest awardable by civil courts at 12 per cent. per annum where the documents did not stipulate otherwise. The condition of the ryots had everywhere changed since the year 1010, and the same rate of interest prevailed among them even now. It was the agricultural section of the people that suffered most from the high rate of interest. The Member therefore prayed that a law might be passed fixing the maximum rate of interest awardable at 7½ per cent. per annum.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

36. Desirability of amending the Nair Regulation so as to allow individual partition and Makkathayam.

Mr. K. Govinda Pillai (Member, Tiruvalla taluk) said that, on a perusal of the depositions of the members of his community before the Marumakkathayam commission, it would be clear that the majority were in favour of partition. Even some of those, who did not favour partition then, had partitioned their properties subsequently. Under the present system there could be no individual responsibility or individual credit. Want of individual responsibility would cause the mismanagement of the tarwad property by a Karnavan, as its improvement under him would not benefit him. Want of individual credit deprived the capacity of individual members to work for themselves independently of the tarwad. However wealthy a tarwad might be, its members had no individual credit. They could therefore enter no walk of life requiring personal credit. It was particularly noticeable in the formation of co-operative societies, as a member of a Nair tarwad could not become a member of a rural society. Trade and other industries were therefore practically closed to them. Education among them was declining. It was therefore necessary to amend the Nair Regulation allowing individual partition and Makkathayam.

Dewan.—If Makkathayam is to be enforced, will not female members lose all

Member.—Under no law have women any rights to property.

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